

Claims

1. A heatstake for fastening a workpiece, comprising:
 - a base portion;
 - at least one shaft portion including a leading end;
 - a central passage extending through the at least one shaft portion, the central passage being defined by an opening at the leading end; and
 - a plurality of slots disposed about an outer surface of the at least one shaft portion having a predefined angular separation.
2. The heatstake according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of slots comprises at least three slots.
3. The heatstake according to Claim 2, wherein the predefined angular separation is approximately 120 degrees.
4. The heatstake according to Claim 1, wherein the heatstake comprises two shaft portions, one shaft portion having an outer diameter less than an inner diameter of the other shaft portion.
5. A heatstake for fastening a workpiece, comprising:
 - a base portion;
 - a first shaft portion including a first leading end and a first central passage;
 - a second shaft portion including a second leading end, a second central passage,
 - and a plurality of slots disposed about an outer surface having a predefined angular separation,

wherein the first shaft portion is generally concentrically disposed about the second central passage of the second shaft portion to form a dual heatstake configuration.

6. The heatstake according to Claim 5, wherein the first shaft portion has an outer diameter less than an inner diameter of the second shaft portion.

7. The heatstake according to Claim 5, wherein the plurality of slots comprises at least three slots.

8. The heatstake according to Claim 7, wherein the predefined angular separation is approximately 120 degrees.

9. A method of deforming a heatstake in a controlled fashion, the heatstake comprising a base portion, at least one shaft portion including a leading end, a central passage extending through the at least one shaft portion, the central passage being defined by an opening at the leading end, and a plurality of slots disposed about an outer surface of the at least one shaft portion having a predefined angular separation, the method comprising the steps of:

deforming the at least one shaft portion vertically downward and radially outward about a vertical axis of the at least one shaft portion such that the plurality of slots positively engage a workpiece.

10. The method according to Claim 9, wherein the deformed heatstake forms a geometric configuration in the form of a rosette or flower shape.